

Tennessee Deaths 2001

December 2002

The Tennessee Department of Health

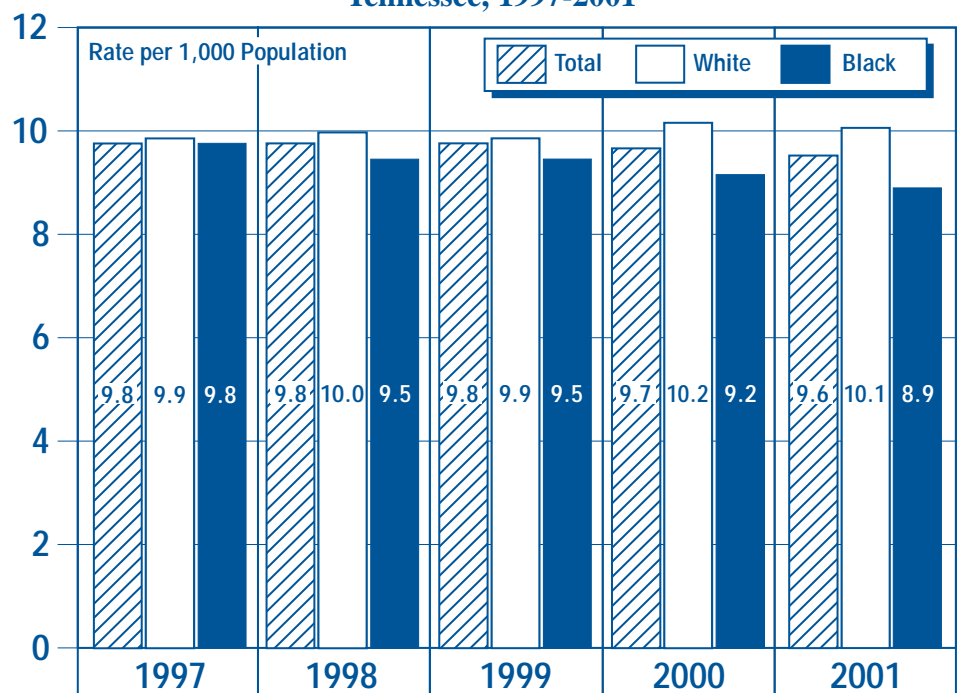
Tennessee's death data provides information on 2001 final mortality data for state residents. Resident data includes events which occurred to residents of the state irrespective of where the events took place. Certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report.

Over the past century, improvements in scientific technology and research have created a better quality of life. Tennesseans now have the potential for increased longevity of life and reductions in illnesses.

The overall death rate remained fairly steady from 1997 to 2001, as the total population increased 6.9 percent. The 2001 mortality rate for whites of 10.1 was 2.0 percent higher than the rate of 9.9 in 1997. The rate for blacks decreased 9.2 percent from 9.8 per 1,000 population to 8.9 from 1997 to 2001.

Age-specific death rates for 2001 show the total rates increasing over three times for the age group 45-64 to the group 65-74. The highest levels were for the population groups 85 years and older. Rates for blacks were higher than those for whites for every age group except 85 years and older and for ages 5-14 where the rates were the same. The black infant death rate of 16.2 was 2.4 times higher than the white rate of 6.7 per 1,000 births.

**Death Rates by Race, Resident Data
Tennessee, 1997-2001**



Population estimates used to calculate rates were revised May 31, 2002.
(See Note on last page)

**Number of Deaths by Age and Race, with Rates per 1,000
Population, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001**

Age Groups	Total	Rate	White	Rate	Black	Rate
Total	55,148	9.6	46,602	10.1	8,332	8.9
Under 1*	680	8.7	400	6.7	268	16.2
1-4 years	108	0.4	71	0.3	36	0.6
5-14 years	141	0.2	97	0.2	41	0.2
15-24 years	797	1.0	558	0.9	225	1.5
25-44 years	3,413	2.0	2,500	1.8	877	3.1
45-64 years	10,634	8.0	8,576	7.6	2,009	11.9
65-74 years	10,499	27.2	8,869	26.1	1,581	38.5
75-84 years	15,222	63.2	13,390	62.4	1,801	75.0
85+ years	13,650	166.3	12,140	169.0	1,494	156.3

*Rate for deaths under age one are per 1,000 live births. All other age groups are per 1,000 population.
Total includes deaths of other races and deaths with race not stated.

Tennessee's ten leading causes of death accounted for 43,440 or 78.8 percent of the total 55,148 deaths in 2001. Diseases of heart and malignant neoplasms combined accounted for 27,907 or 50.6 percent of the total deaths. The codes used for cause of death were from the Tenth Revision International Classification of Diseases.

Notes: Age-adjustment is a technique that removes the effects that differences in age distributions have on mortality rates for two or more groups being compared. For 2001, the standard population used in the direct method calculations was revised to the 2000 United States estimated population, as recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics. These revised age-adjusted figures may result in rates that differ from previous years.

Leading Causes of Death (ICD-10 Codes) with Rates and Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001

Cause	Number	Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Total Deaths	55,148	960.8	987.4
1. Diseases of heart (I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51)	15,679	273.2	282.6
2. Malignant neoplasms (C00-C97)	12,228	213.0	215.0
3. Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	4,038	70.3	73.6
4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)	2,941	51.2	52.6
5. Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-Y86)	2,710	47.2	47.5
Motor vehicle accidents (V02-V04, V09.0, V09.2, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2)	1,301	22.7	22.5
6. Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	1,746	30.4	31.0
7. Influenza and pneumonia (J10-J18)	1,618	28.2	29.7
8. Alzheimer's disease (G30)	1,148	20.0	21.4
9. Intentional self-harm (suicide) (X60-X84, Y87.0)	709	12.4	12.2
10. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (N00-N07, N17-N19, N25-N27)	623	10.9	11.2

Number of Infant and Neonatal Deaths by Race with Rates per 1,000 Live Births Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001

Infant Deaths	Number	Rate	Neonatal Deaths	Number	Rate
Total	680	8.7	Total	436	5.6
White	400	6.7	White	252	4.2
Black	268	16.2	Black	176	10.6

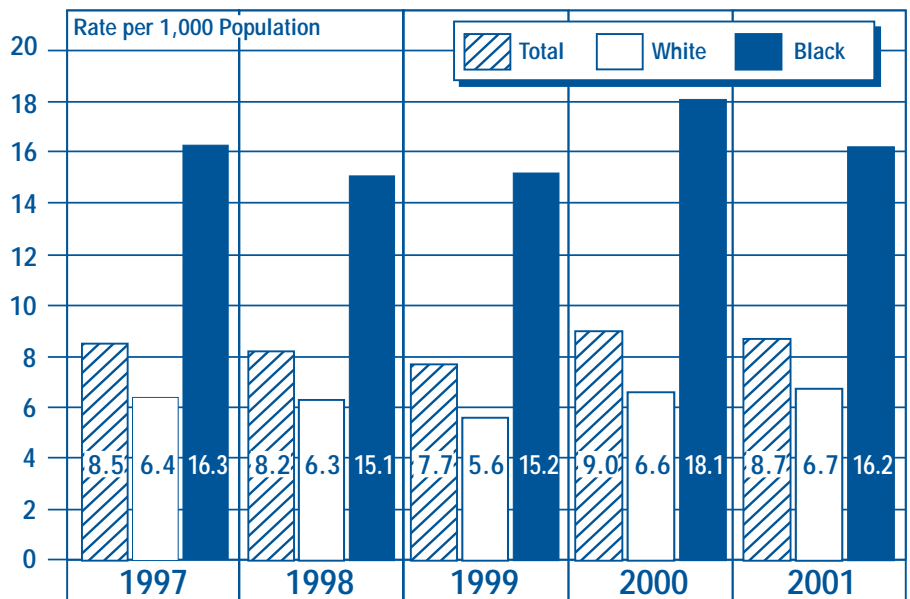
Infant Death - A death of a live-born infant under one year of age.
Neonatal Death - A death of a live-born infant under 28 days of age.

Tennessee had 680 infant deaths in 2001. The total infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 8.7. The number of white infant deaths was 400 with a mortality rate of 6.7. The number of black infant deaths was 268, and the rate was 16.2 per 1,000 live births. The total number of neonatal deaths was 436 with a rate of 5.6. There were 252 white and 176 black neonatal deaths with corresponding rates of 4.2 and 10.6 per 1,000 live births.

Infant Death Rates by Race, Resident Data Tennessee, 1997-2001

Tennessee's total infant death rate decreased from 1997 to 1999. After an increase in 2000, the rate decreased for 2001. The 2001 black infant death rate of 16.2 was 2.4 times higher than the white rates of 6.7 per 1,000 live births.

Early prenatal care and educating mothers on the importance of proper nutrition and good health habits, and informative programs like the "Back to Sleep" campaign have been important factors in the ongoing effort to decrease infant deaths. While these deaths overall have declined since the early 1900's, infant death reduction will continue to be a high priority for health professionals.



Tennessee's violent death data primarily focuses on assault (homicide) and intentional self-harm (suicide) deaths. Also provided is information on firearm deaths, which includes accidental deaths as well as homicides and suicides due to firearm use. In addition to the 2001 violent deaths, there were three deaths from legal intervention.

- During 2001, there were 453 assault deaths among residents of Tennessee. The corresponding death rate was 7.9 per 100,000 population.
- In 2001, black deaths accounted for 240 or 53.0 percent of the total assault deaths.
- Of the total 2001 assault deaths, 73.3 percent were males while 42.2 percent of the total were black males.
- The number of intentional self-harm deaths for 2001 was 709 with a rate of 12.4 per 100,000 population.
- The white population accounted for 643 or 90.7 percent of the total 2001 intentional self-harm deaths.
- Of the total 2001 intentional self-harm deaths, 81.4 percent were males while 74.0 percent of the total were white males.
- In 2001, intentional self-harm was the ninth leading cause of death in Tennessee.

The 2001 assault death rate for blacks was 25.7 per 100,000 population. This rate was 5.8 times the rate of 4.4 for

whites. The 2001 intentional self-harm rate for whites was 13.9. This rate was 2.2 times the rate of 6.3 for blacks.

Number of Assault and Intentional Self-Harm Deaths by Race and Gender, with Rates per 100,000 Population Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001

	Assault		Intentional Self-harm	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total	453	7.9	709	12.4
White	204	4.4	643	13.9
White Male	135	6.0	525	23.3
White Female	69	2.9	118	5.0
Black	240	25.7	59	6.3
Black Male	191	43.5	48	10.9
Black Female	40	9.9	11	2.2
Other Races	8	4.1	7	3.6
Other Male	6	5.8	4	3.9
Other Female	2	2.2	3	3.3

In 2001, there were 19 assault deaths and 1 intentional self-harm deaths among children under 15 years of age.

Number of Assault and Intentional Self-Harm Deaths by Age with Rates per 100,000 Population, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001

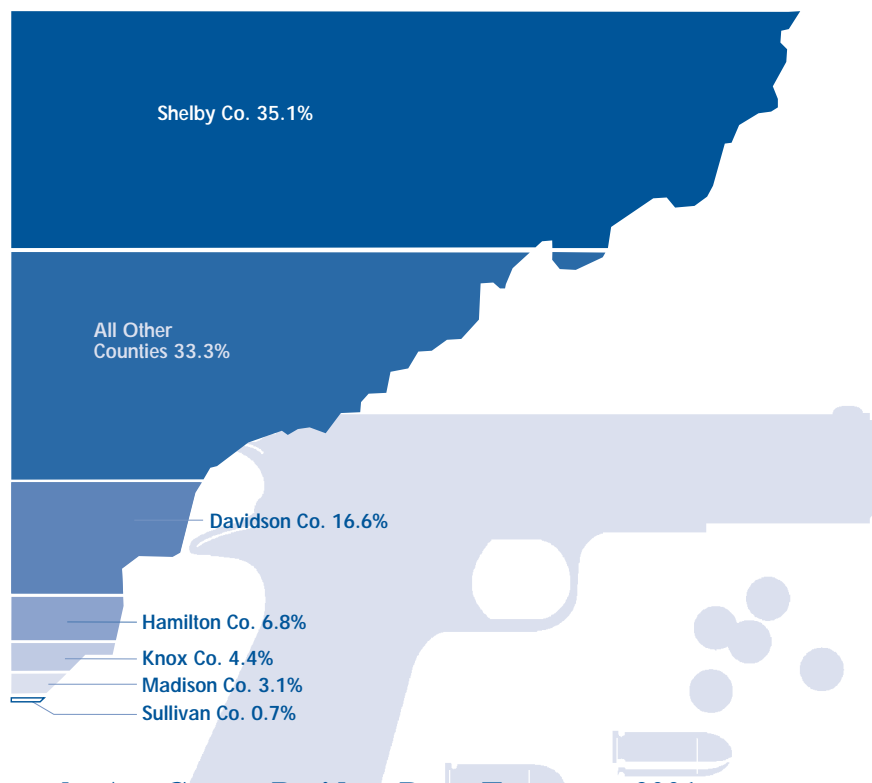
Age Groups	Assault		Intentional Self-harm	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Total	453	7.9	709	12.4
Under 1*	5	0.1	-	-
1-9 years	10	1.4	-	-
10-14 years	4	1.0	1	0.3
15-19 years	37	9.3	37	9.3
20-24 years	73	18.7	49	12.6
25-29 years	60	14.7	50	12.3
30-34 years	51	12.3	83	20.0
35-44 years	84	9.2	158	17.3
45-54 years	65	8.2	118	14.9
55-64 years	33	6.1	92	17.1
65-74 years	18	4.7	54	14.0
75-84 years	9	3.7	54	22.4
85+ years	3	3.7	13	15.8

*Rate for deaths under one are per 1,000 births. All other age groups are per 100,000 population.

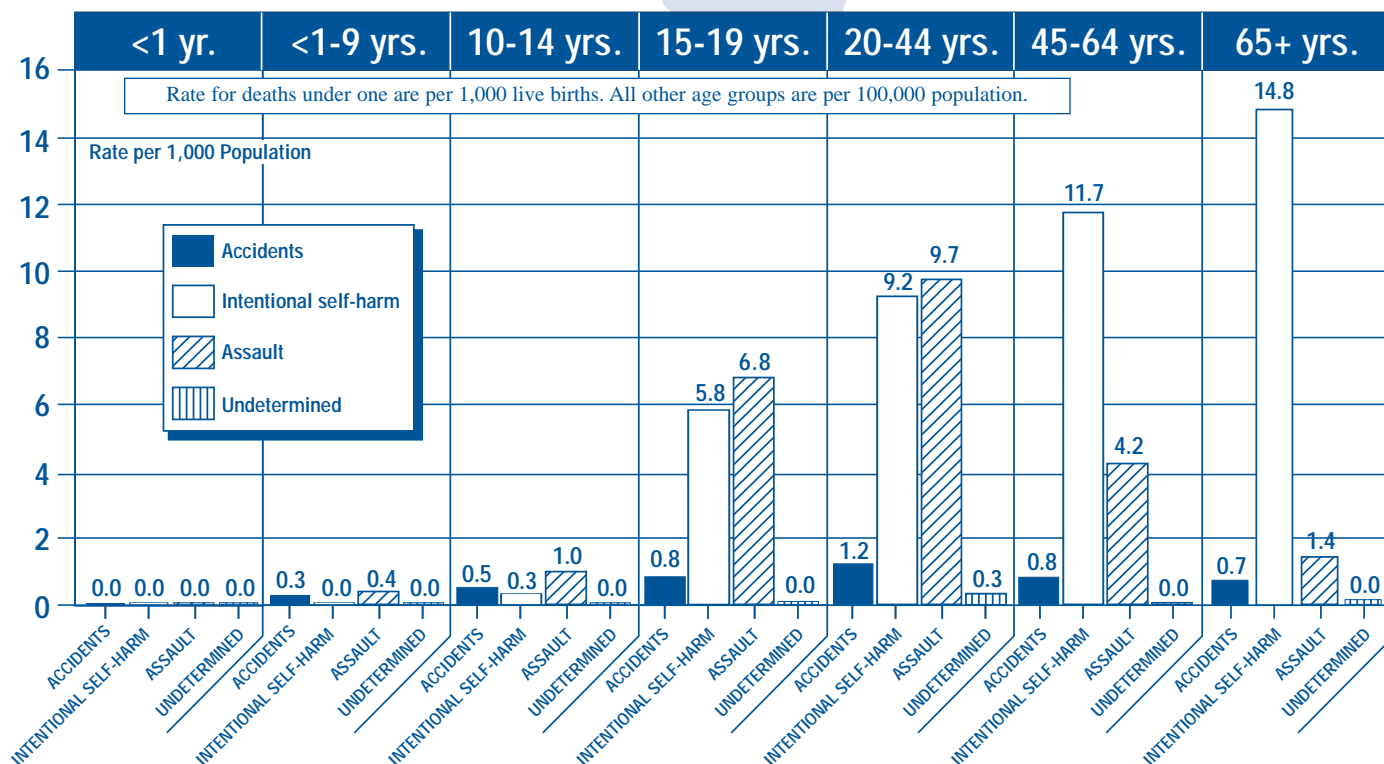
In 2001, Tennessee's assault mortality by county of residence reveals the highest numbers for residents of Shelby and Davidson Counties. These two counties accounted for 51.7 percent of the state's total number of assault deaths, with over one-third of the total assault deaths occurring in Shelby County.

In 2001, five children under the age of ten years died from firearm injuries. Of these five deaths, two were accidental and three were assault deaths. Two of these assaults were to children under five years of age. While accidental death is the leading cause of death for young children, violence toward children and youth is of increasing concern. For children ages 10-14, there were seven firearm deaths. Of these deaths, one was intentional self-harm, two were accidental, and four were assault deaths. The assault rate for firearm injury was highest for the 20-44 age group, while the intentional self-harm rate was highest for the 65+ years.

Tennessee's Assault Deaths by Metropolitan and Rural Counties, Resident Data, 2001



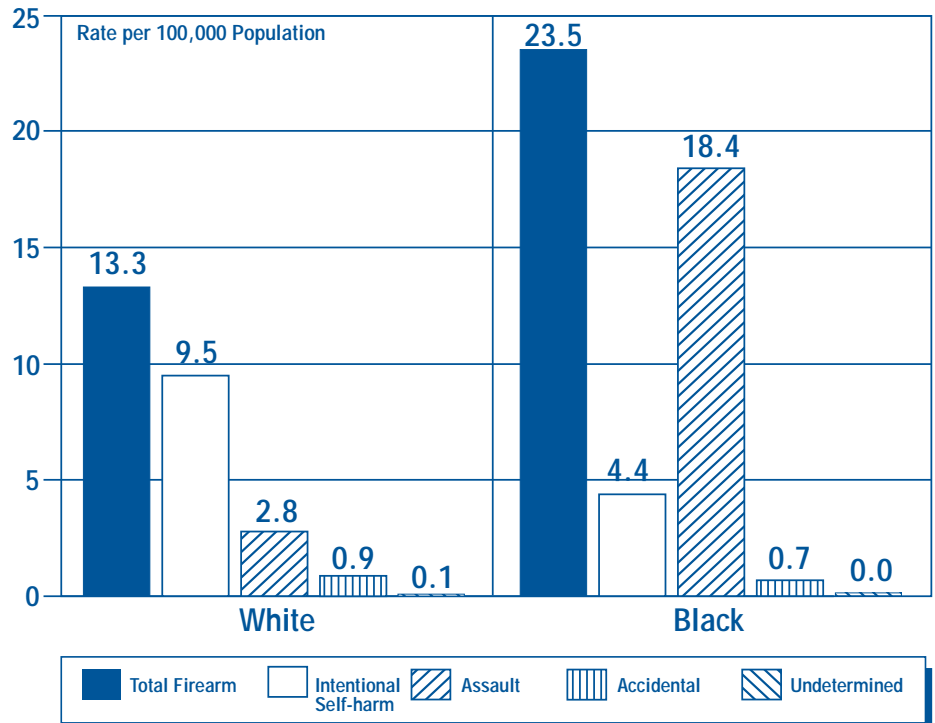
Firearm Death Rates, by Age Group, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2001



Deaths attributed to firearm injury are classified according to ICD-10 codes as follows: accident codes W32-W34; intentional self-harm codes X72-X74; assault codes X93-X95, and undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted, codes Y22-Y24.

Tennessee had 612 firearm deaths for white residents and 220 for black residents in 2001. The firearm death rate for the white population was 13.3 per 100,000 population. The rate for blacks of 23.5 was 1.8 times greater than the white rate. The intentional self-harm firearm mortality rate for whites was 2.2 times greater than the rate for blacks, while the assault firearm death rate for blacks was 6.6 times greater than the white rate. The accidental firearm death rate for whites was 1.3 percent higher than the black rate. The rate for whites for undetermined cause was 0.1 while there were no deaths of undetermined cause for blacks.

**Firearm Death Rates, by Race
Resident Data, Tennessee 2001**



**Number of Firearm Deaths by
Race and Gender, with Rates per
100,000 Population, Resident Data
Tennessee, 2001**

	Number	Rate
Total	843	14.7
White	612	13.3
White Male	515	22.9
White Female	97	4.1
Black	220	23.5
Black Male	191	43.5
Black Female	29	5.9
Other Races	10	5.1
Other Male	7	6.8
Other Female	3	3.3

For 2001, firearm death rates by gender show that black males had the highest rate (43.5) per 100,000 population. The lowest firearm mortality rate of 3.3 was for other females.

Violent deaths have become an important health issue as it appears that violent behavior has grown to be the course of action for conflict, emotional distress, and criminal activity; but health programs alone are not sufficient to deal with this complicated problem. Implementing prevention programs involves the cooperative efforts of public health, mental health, criminal justice, social services, and professional education. Reducing these preventable deaths is imperative in the goal toward increased longevity of life.

More detailed county level mortality data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Research or at our website.

NOTE: The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report were based on figures prepared from the 2000 census on May 31, 2002 by Health Statistics and Research.

These revised population figures may result in rates that differ from those previously published.

2001
Total Population
5,740,021

2001
White Population
4,611,024

2001
Black Population
934,694

Please visit the Tennessee Department of Health website:

<http://www.state.tn.us/health>

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